Patent Claims:
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1. A method of estimating the pitch of a speech signal
(2), said method comprising the steps of:
- dividing the speech signal into segments,
- calculating for each segment a conformity function
  for the signal, and
- detecting peaks in the conformity function,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that the method further
comprises the steps of:
- estimating an average distance between said peaks,
  and
- using the estimate of said average distance as an
  estimate of the pitch.

2. A method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r -
i z e d   in that it further comprises the steps of:
- sampling the speech signal to obtain a series of
  samples, and
- performing said division into segments such that
  each segment has a fixed number of consecutive sam-
  ples.

3.   A   method   according   to   claim   1   or   2,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that it further comprises
the steps of:
- estimating a set of filter parameters using linear
  predictive analysis (LPA),
- providing a modified signal (26) by filtering the
  speech signal through a filter based on said esti-
  mated set of filter parameters, and
- calculating said conformity function of the modified
  signal.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that said conformity function is calculated as an autocorrelation function.

5. 5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that it further comprises the steps of:
- • calculating for each peak in the conformity function the difference between the position of the peak and
10   the estimate of said average distance, and
- • providing an improved estimate of the pitch by selecting as the improved estimate the position of the peak having the smallest value of said difference.

15 6. A method according to claim 5, c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that it further comprises the step of:
- • selecting, if the peak having the smallest value of said difference is represented by a number of samples, the sample having the maximum amplitude of
20   said conformity function as said improved estimate of the pitch.

7. Use of the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in a mobile telephone.

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8. A device adapted to estimate the pitch of a speech signal (2), and comprising:
- • means (3) for dividing the speech signal into segments,
30 • means (5) for calculating for each segment a conformity function for the signal, and
- • means (6) for detecting peaks in the conformity function,

c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that the device is further
35 adapted to:
- • estimate an average distance between said peaks, and

- use the estimate of said average distance as an es-
  timate of the pitch.

9. A device according to claim 8, c h a r a c t e r -
i z e d   in that it further comprises:
- means (3) for sampling the speech signal to obtain a
  series of samples, and
- means for performing said division into segments
  such that each segment has a fixed number of con-
  secutive samples.

10. A device according to claim 8 or 9,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that it further comprises:
- means (4; 24) for estimating a set of filter parame-
  ters using linear predictive analysis (LPA),
- means (4; 25) for providing a modified signal by
  filtering the speech signal through a filter based
  on said estimated set of filter parameters, and
- means (5) for calculating said conformity function
  of the modified signal.

11. A device according to any one of claims 8 to 10,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that said conformity func-
tion is an autocorrelation function.

12. A device according to any one of claims 8 to 11,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that it further comprises:
- means for calculating for each peak in the confor-
  mity function the difference between the position of
  the peak and the estimate of said average distance,
  and
- means for providing an improved estimate of the
  pitch by selecting as the improved estimate the po-
  sition of the peak having the smallest value of said
  difference.

13. A device according to claim 12, c h a r a c t e r -
i z e d   in that it is further adapted to select, if the
peak having the smallest value of said difference is rep-
resented by a number of samples, the sample having the
5   maximum amplitude of said conformity function as said im-
proved estimate of the pitch.

14. A device according to any one of claims 8 to 13,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that the device is a mo-
10   bile telephone.

15. A device according to any one of claims 8 to 13,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d   in that the device is an in-
tegrated circuit.

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